UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Friday, 14 April 2023
8:30 am
via Zoom (https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/4885277422)

Attendance: Brewer, Telfer, Katz, Berlin, Trim, Olsen, Paik, Hoagland, Kalmakis

1. Minutes

   Approve minutes of the ~~10~~7 March 2023 meeting submitted by Eric Berlin. Deferred until next regular meeting.

2. Agendas items for the May Faculty Senate meeting

   a. Academic calendars

The Committee had an extended discussion of how many calendars to put forward for approval at the next Faculty Senate.

Inter-campus faculty council has concluded that the period of responsibility is from Sept 1 to May 31, except for holidays.

Results of survey were discussed. The 30-day calendar is seen as problematic by faculty and is the least popular choice.

Reports about the evidence of faculty being divided on campus were presented. Some faculty members of the campus leadership demonstrated a lack of awareness that faculty had concerns about the longer winter break.

It was recommended that the Committee present a Special Report with data to inform the Senators about how the faculty feel about the calendar.

An additional Faculty Senate may be scheduled on May 18 to consider additional calendars.

Under the Wellman document, "academic matters are the primary responsibility of the Faculty". When the Chancellor said he could overrule the Faculty Senate, it's not clear given that the options available to him he does not instead be required to refer it back to the governing bodies.

Questions were raised about who is allowed to speak at the Senate. The Presiding Officer reported that past practice is that anyone is allowed to speak except under extraordinary circumstances, for example, when time becomes limited.

The Presiding Officer was directed to exhort Senators to remain restricted to discussing the academic impacts of the calendar, rather than raising work-life issues which are the purview of the union. And to encourage speakers to identify themselves. The Presiding Officer will vote last to break a tie, if necessary.

The AMC voted 11-2. But the calendar committee had only a single faculty member.

The other agenda items already scheduled were discussed in terms of ordering items on the agenda.

The Committee voted to develop a special report and to present three calendars, as separate agenda items, for a vote at the May 4 Faculty Senate meeting.

b. Presentations: NECHE and AMC Calendar

The Committee decided to not schedule an AMC Calendar presentation and, instead, to encourage them to offer a supplemental report.

The Rules Committee should help shed sunlight on the process, ensure Senators understand that these data were not available when the votes were taken, clarify who was on the Committee when the vote happened, and ask why faculty vacancies were not filled.

3. Discussion items

a. Nominations (Co-chair for Childcare taskforce; vacancies on the Nominating Committee)

b. Language proficiency recommendations

c. Segal

d. Glean

e. Equity action plans

f. Search and evaluation procedures

g. Flex

h. Taskforces – AI and Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement

i. Retitle form

j. Secretary updates (QQ certificate reviews; medical excuses; website development; required syllabus elements; mode of teaching/flex fees and accommodations)